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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 25 JULY 10, 2006

INSIDE: SWP CONVENTION

'Mass actions for immigrant rights strengthen workers movement'

—PAGES 6–7

Bipartisan support grows for Iraq war

Senate unanimously approves $100 billion for occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan



Reuters/Bob Strong

U.S. and Iraqi troops carry out joint "knock and search" mission near Tikrit, Iraq. Large majorities in U.S. Senate rejected proposals to "redeploy" some of the U.S. troops.

BY PAUL PEDERSON

On June 22 the U.S. Senate unanimously approved a military spending bill of $509 billion, which includes more than $100 billion to finance the U.S.-led occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan through the end of 2007.

The same day, the Senate also rejected by clear bipartisan majorities two amendments suggesting a timetable for beginning "redeployment" of some of the 130,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

Widespread media reports on the debate falsely presented it as a split between the Democratic and Republican parties. Instead the votes reflected broad agreement in both parties on Washington's course in Iraq and the broader imperialist military offensive being prosecuted in the name of fighting the "war on terror."

The amendment presented by Massachusetts senator John Kerry called for redeployment of some U.S. forces from Iraq by July 1, 2007—"leaving only the

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U.S. troops out now!

— editorial, p. 9

Socialist Workers launch election campaign in N.Y.

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK, June 25—Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party candidates here hit the streets of this city today to campaign for the working-class alternative to the Democrats, Republicans, and other capitalist parties in the 2006 elections.

The SWP just announced a statewide ticket headed by Róger Calero for U.S. Senate and Maura DeLuca for governor. Calero, 37, was the party's presidential candidate in 2004. DeLuca, 27, a garment worker, is also a member of the Young Socialists, a group actively campaigning for the SWP ticket.

The socialist ticket also includes: for lieutenant governor, Ben O'Shaughnessy, 20, a student at the State

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Militant/Marshall Lambie

Maura DeLuca (left), SWP candidate for governor of New York, and Martín Koppel (center), the party's candidate for state attorney general, campaign in Manhattan June 25.

UMWA holds rally in W. Virginia to unionize Peabody mine

BY SAM MANUEL

WHARTON, West Virginia, June 27—Some 1,500 members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and their supporters rallied here June 22 to press for unionization of a mine being opened in the area by Peabody Energy, according to Phil Smith, the UMWA's communications director.

Kentucky miners' families: 'No miner has to die' – p. 4

Peabody is opening the Black Stallion mine nonunion near another Peabody mine represented by the UMWA here in Boone County—an area of southern West Virginia's coalfields where the union has a strong presence.

The rally, which drew miners and others from across the region, was addressed by UMWA president Cecil Roberts; Joe Carter, the union's international vice president in West Virginia; state AFL-CIO

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FBI carries out 'antiterror' raid in Miami, bases case on informer

BY MARGARET TROWE

MIAMI—On June 22, FBI agents arrested seven workers that U.S. Justice Department officials claim were involved in a "terrorist" plot. They were indicted on various conspiracy charges, including alleged plots to bomb the Sears Tower in Chicago and the FBI offices in Miami, based on the statements and actions of an FBI informer posing as a representative of al-Qaeda.

FBI agents and a SWAT unit swarmed into the Black community of Liberty City, cordoned off several

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Thousands in London protest 'antiterror' raid

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—Thousands of demonstrators converged on Forest Gate, East London, June 18 to protest a police "anti-terror" raid. Organizers demanded an apology from the police and government for a shooting during the raid that injured a postal worker.

Some 250 officers had raided a house in Lansdown Road, Forest Gate, on

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Israeli tanks invade Gaza

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Israeli troops and tanks poured into the Gaza Strip through its southeastern border with Israel just before midnight June 27, in the largest Israeli military operation there since Tel Aviv withdrew its settlements in 2005. The invasion was accompanied by air strikes that destroyed three main bridges connecting northern and southern Gaza and knocked out an electrical plant that provides power to much of the densely populated region.

According to the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, the targets of the Israeli forces include the city of Khan Yunis, where an Israeli soldier may be held hostage.

The soldier, Gilad Shalit, 19, was captured in a June 25 raid inside Israel in which two Israeli soldiers and three Palestinians were killed. Three groups—the Popular Resistance Committees; the Army of Islam; and the military wing of Hamas, the governing party in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)—claimed responsibility for the raid.

Shalit's captors say he will be released if some 400 Palestinian women and youths under 18 jailed in Israel are freed. There are currently 9,000 Palestinians imprisoned by Tel Aviv.

"We won't hesitate to carry out extreme action to bring Gilad back to his family,"

Continued on page 9

Los Angeles conference: 'Legalize all immigrants!'

BY NAOMI CRAINE AND ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES—Some 300 people active in the fight to legalize all immigrants took part in a statewide regional conference here June 17 at the United Teachers of Los Angeles hall. The meeting was convened by the March 25 Coalition, which organized two massive mobilizations for immigrants rights earlier this year.

"The most important thing accomplished at the conference was a consensus of an absolute repudiation of the Senate immigration bill S2611, along

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Also Inside:

Harvard exhibit helps promote new edition of ‘The Case of Leon Trotsky’

BY TED LEONARD

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—A reception and program at the opening of the exhibit, “Brushes with History: Leon Trotsky and the Dewey Commission of Inquiry,” was held June 13 in the Houghton Library at Harvard University here. The republication by Pathfinder Press of the long out of print book *The Case of Leon Trotsky* was one of the features of the event (see ad below).

Leslie Morris, curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts at the Houghton Library, welcomed people and explained that Harvard University houses Leon Trotsky’s papers. In the late 1930s Trotsky had contacted Harvard about safeguarding his archives, and the university had agreed.

Christie McDonald, chairperson of the Harvard University Romance Language Department, organized the exhibition. In her remarks she explained how her parents, the artist Dorothy Eisner and John McDonald, traveled from New York to Mexico in 1937 to assist the Dewey Commission in its inquiry of the charges made against Leon Trotsky in the Moscow Trials organized by the regime of Joseph Stalin.

Pathfinder’s new edition of *The Case of Leon Trotsky,* the verbatim transcript of the hearings, is enhanced with a new cover using Eisner’s vibrant painting of the Dewey Commission sessions. The new edition, with larger type and text design, is displayed next to the 1937 first edition. The book also includes the artist’s preliminary sketch of the work. Christie McDonald had brought the painting to the attention of Pathfinder.

Mike Taber spoke about the republication of the book by Pathfinder. He said the publisher will soon bring back into print the book’s sister volume, *Not Guilty.* The latter outlines the Dewey Commission findings that Trotsky was not guilty of the charges against him and that the Moscow Trials were a frame-up.

“The commission’s work, and the campaign by the workers’ movement to widely publicize its conclusions at the time, exposed the Moscow Trials before world opinion. This was a historic achievement,” Taber said.

The reissuing of this book, and the perspective Trotsky defends in it—the continuation of the revolutionary course of the Bolsheviks under Lenin’s leadership, and against the Stalinist political counterrevolution—offers invaluable political lessons for workers and farmers engaged in class battles today, he said.

The exhibition includes a portrait of Trotsky by Eisner; her sketches, pictures, and correspondence with Trotsky from the trip; and Christie McDonald’s article, “Brushes with History,” which is published this year in issue 30 of *Harvard Review.* It recounts her parent’s experiences that led them to Mexico in the 1930s.

About 50 people attended the event, including students and faculty from Harvard, volunteers who had worked on preparing the new Pathfinder edition, and others from the Boston area.

The exhibit is open until July 31.

Dave Prince contributed to this article.

Abortion rights supporters defend clinic in Miami



Militant/Nancy Cole

KENDALL, Florida, June 10—Defenders of a woman’s right to choose abortion rallied today outside “A Choice for Women” clinic in this suburb of Miami to counter anti-abortion demonstrators who were trying to harass women entering the facility. Every Saturday over the last month, opponents of a woman’s right to choose abortion have held such actions at this clinic. The regular presence of pro-choice forces has made it possible for women to keep their appointments with minimal harassment.

—RUTH ROBINETT

U.S. infant mortality rate is 2nd highest among industrialized countries

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

The United States has the second highest infant mortality rate among 33 industrialized countries, a recent study shows. Infants born in the United States are nearly three times as likely to die in their first month than a newborn in Japan, Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland, and Norway, says the State of the World’s Mothers 2006 Report issued by Save the Children. Japan has the lowest infant mortality rate, with 1.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Five infants born in the United States die in their first month out of 1,000 live births, according to the report. This figure ties the United States with Hungary, Malta, Poland, and Slovakia for the second highest infant mortality rate among industrialized countries. Only Latvia, a former Soviet republic, has a higher rate at six deaths of the newborn for every 1,000 live births.

This health indicator is significantly higher among oppressed nationalities in the United States. According to Save the Children, the infant mortality rate among African-Americans is 9.3 deaths per 1,000 live births, nearly twice the national average. The report also indicates that while 17 percent of all births in the United States are to African-Americans, 33 percent of all low birth-weight infants are Black, which make them more susceptible to illnesses and death.The infant mortality rate among Latinos is 1.5 times the nationwide average.

A similar study conducted by the United Health Foundation in 2005 showed the mortality rate of babies born in rural areas is also higher than the national figure. Mississippi and Louisiana are tied as having the highest infant mortality rate in the country at 9.6. The infant mortality rate for African-Americans in Mississippi is 14.7.

The Militant

VOL. 70/NO. 25

Closing news date: June 28, 2006

Editor and circulation director: Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Arrin Hawkins, Martín Koppel, Paul Pederson, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January and two weeks in June.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899; Fax (212) 244-4947.

E-mail: TheMilitant@verizon.net

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Subscriptions: **United States**: for one-year subscription send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send $80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send $65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $45 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 75 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 4,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Cop kills Navajo youth in Farmington, New Mexico

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

Clint John, a 21-year-old Navajo youth from Kirtland, New Mexico, was brutally killed June 10 by police officer Shawn Scott in a parking lot of a Wal-Mart store in Farmington, New Mexico, reported the *Navajo Times.* According to eyewitness accounts, John was shot four times, the last shot fired directly into his head.

Johnny Descheny, a former Navajo Nation Council delegate, told Farmington television station KOAT-TV that he had just parked his car when he saw Scott and John fighting and that the officer was hitting John with his baton. "Every time the guy got shot, his body just jerked—just jerked three times. And he just stood there. That's when the officer went up, aimed at the guy's head and shot him in the head," Descheny said.

Police chief Mike Burridge absolved Scott. "Our agency conducted a professional and thorough internal and administrative investigation, which has found that Officer Scott acted appropriately and within the scope of departmental policy," he said at a June 22 press conference. Scott was cleared of any criminal wrongdoing after District Attorney Lyndy Bennett said the killing was "justifiable homicide."

According to the June 23 *Farmington Times*, "Scott attempted to place John in a control hold but failed…. John then swung at the officer and tried to take him to the ground." The police claim that John grabbed Scott's baton and the cop fired in "self defense."

An eyewitness who used the name Rick, because he said he fears police reprisals, gave a different account in the June 22 *Navajo Times.* The article, "Eyewitness: Man was unarmed when shot," quotes Rick saying that he "did not see John throw any punches, but instead was trying to protect himself from Scott's blows." He said John was hit at least eight times with the baton and then he saw the cop get a gun out of the police car and shoot John four times.

"I saw Clint's body jerk three times and even though he was shot, he was just standing there," Rick said. "The officer paused for a second, raised his gun and shot him in the head." He said Scott was like a "madman, crazy with anger."

John was still alive as more police arrived and the officers reportedly did nothing to help him. The eyewitness said he looked down at John and noticed the police baton on his stomach. "The thing that I stand on is, Clint didn't have a weapon on him when he was shot and it looked like the baton was placed on his stomach by the officer."

Speaking at a special session of the Navajo Nation Council on June 23, Della John, Clint John's mother, said, "I ask for your help today. It's tragic that my son had to lose his life for something to be done…. The only comfort is in doing something about [racial violence]," reported the *Gallup Independent.*

Navajos are 17 percent of Farmington's population, yet they account for 69 percent of assault arrests and 62 percent of arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol, said Shiprock Chapter president Duane "Chili" Yazzie, who attended the special session. "The violent victimization of Native Americans is twice the U.S. national rate."

Canada's prime minister apologizes for Ottawa's head tax on Chinese immigrants



Militant/John Steele

TORONTO—Supporters of the campaign for redress for Chinese head tax payers gathered June 19 in Union Station here to greet participants in the "Redress Express" train, which traveled across Canada to hear Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper apologize for the head tax imposed on Chinese immigrants entering the country from 1885 to 1923. Among those making the journey are some of the 20 surviving head tax payers, about 200 spouses, and descendants. Some 81,000 Chinese immigrants paid a total of $23 million to enter Canada over these years, until Ottawa passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1923 barring entry of all Chinese immigrants. The act was repealed in 1947.

—KATY LE ROUGETEL

Bipartisan support firm for Iraq war

Continued from front page

minimal number of forces that are critical to completing the mission of standing up Iraqi security forces, conducting targeted and specialized counterterrorism operations, and protecting United States facilities and personnel."

The Kerry amendment failed by a vote of 86 to 13, with all Republicans and 31 of the Senate's 44 Democrats voting no.

The second proposed amendment, offered by Wisconsin senator Carl Levin, was more vague. Levin offered a nonbinding "sense of the Congress" proposal saying Washington should "expedite the transition of United States forces in Iraq to a limited presence" without setting a deadline. It failed by a vote of 60 to 39, with six Democrats siding with most Republicans to defeat it.

Neither amendment specified the size of the "limited presence" of troops that would remain, but both stressed that it had to be large enough to fight the "war on terror" and "stand up Iraqi security forces" while defending U.S. installations and personnel.

Speaking against the Kerry amendment, New York senator Hillary Clinton said she does not "believe it is a solution or a strategy to set a date certain for withdrawal."

Sen. Russell Feingold, a co-sponsor of the Kerry amendment, noted that the measure was not proposed based on a principled opposition to use of U.S. military might abroad.

"All of us in this Chamber… supported the appropriate action to invade Afghanistan," Feingold said. "I voted against the Iraq war because it appeared obvious to me that was not the wise next strategic move in the fight against al-Qaeda," he said, adding that Somalia and Indonesia are more appropriate targets.

Kerry also said the ongoing occupation of Iraq weakens Washington's ability to threaten Iran. Washington, along with its imperialist allies in Europe, has been threatening military strikes against Tehran if it does not give up its right to produce enriched uranium—a necessary fuel for nuclear power and a component in nuclear weapons.

"For three-and-a half years we sat on the sidelines and allowed Iran to become more of a problem," Kerry said. "Is that winning the war on terror?" The former Democratic presidential nominee said, "Iran loves the fact that we are bogged down in Iraq."

The major big business dailies—from the *New York Times* to the *Washington Post*—avoided quoting the text of the amendments that failed, presenting them inaccurately as being for withdrawal from Iraq.

"The Republican-controlled Senate, embracing President Bush's handling of the unpopular war in Iraq, rejected two Democratic efforts yesterday to begin a withdrawal of U.S. troops from the three-year-old conflict," the *Washington Post* said June 23.

A Reuters dispatch from the previous day led with, "The Republican-led Senate on Thursday rejected Democratic plans to start a withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq."

Neither article reported the unanimous vote on the defense spending bill. The *Washington Post* article did note that 31 of the Senate's 44 Democrats voted against the Kerry amendment, while the Reuters dispatch did not mention that fact.

In the same debate, Senate Democrats also led an effort to block an offer to anti-government forces in Iraq, being discussed in Baghdad, for amnesty in exchange for laying down their arms. The deal has the support of the White House.

"The idea that they should even consider talking about amnesty for people who have killed people who liberated their country is unconscionable," Senator Levin said in a June 25 interview on Fox News Sunday.

UAW tops promote concessions

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

In response to the announcement by the bosses at General Motors and Ford that they will slash 60,000 jobs over the next six years, officials of the United Auto Workers (UAW) told delegates at the union's June 12–15 convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, that auto workers must prepare for even deeper concessions to help the companies overcome their profit crisis.

"Like it or not, these challenges aren't the kind that can be ridden out," said UAW president Ron Gettelfinger, referring to plans by these U.S. auto giants to close or downsize two dozen plants in order to reverse their drop in market share and credit ratings downgraded to "junk status." The officials offered a perspective of accepting buyouts in exchange for lost jobs, seeking to preserve current members' pensions, and promote protectionist measures.

A few days before the convention, UAW officials signed a pact with GM and Delphi to offer buyouts and early retirement incentives to the 24,000 UAW members at Delphi. An agreement in March had covered only about half that number, along with 113,000 unionists at GM. Delphi, a GM spinoff and the largest auto parts manufacturer in the country, filed for bankruptcy last October, calling for the voiding of its union contracts and has demanded 40 percent wage cuts. In mid-June the judge in the case postponed a decision until August.

On June 23 the *Wall Street Journal* reported in an article titled, "Buyouts Promise a Big Boon for GM," that so far 37,000 workers—28,000 at GM and 9,000 at Delphi—have accepted leaving their jobs as part of the plan. "GM in the past had said it hoped to cut 30,000 hourly jobs by 2008," the big-business daily gloated, "but the buyout program has put it near that goal after less than a year."

Over the past three decades the UAW membership has dropped from 1.5 million to 600,000 today. Only about 35 percent of auto workers are currently union members. Companies such as DaimlerChrysler and Toyota have opened nonunion factories in Alabama,

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MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

U.S. Hands Off Iran! Unfolding Politics in Iran. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, Farsi language editor for Pathfinder Press. Sat., July 8, 7:00 p.m. *4229 S. Central Ave. Tel.: (323) 233-9372.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Independence for Puerto Rico! Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners! Speakers: Frank Velgara, ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; Martín Koppel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York State Attorney General; and others. Fri., July 7. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner; $5 program. *307 W. 36th St. 10th floor (near 8th Avenue, use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.*

TEXAS

Houston

From New Orleans to the Border: No to National Guard Troop Deployments. Speaker: Steve Warshell, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 7. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner; $5 program. *4800 W. 34th St. Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 869-6550.*

Kentucky miners' relatives: 'No miner has to die'

BY SAM MANUEL

HARLAN, Kentucky—"We are fighting so no other families have to go through what we are going through," said Rosa Brock, the sister of Roy Middleton, who was killed on the job along with three other miners and a mine superintendent at the Kentucky Darby Mine No. 1 in Harlan County near here after a May 20 blast. "They can make the mines safe. No miner should have to die and no family should have to lose a loved one in order to make a living," she told the *Militant* in a June 23 interview.

Meanwhile, the Kentucky mine health and safety agency has ordered three foremen and a worker at the Darby No. 1 mine to appear for questioning. According to an attorney representing the families of the four miners the questions will focus on conflicting testimony given at a previous hearing and the possibility that records regarding checks on methane levels at the mine were falsified.

Two of the three foremen subpoenaed by the state agency failed to appear at a separate federal investigation on June 22 for a second round of questioning by the federal Mine Health and Safety Administration (MSHA). Participation at the MSHA hearings has so far been voluntary.

Miners and other working people across Harlan County have been expressing outrage at the deaths and the apparent foot-dragging by government agencies.

Amon Brock, 51, who press reports describe as a mine superintendent, and miner Jimmy Lee, 33, were killed by the blast in the early morning explosion in nearby Holmes Mill. Miners Roy Middleton, 35, George Petras, 49, and Paris Thomas Jr., 53, survived the blast but suffocated from carbon monoxide.

According to press reports United Mine Workers of America safety official Kenny Johnson and attorney Tony Oppegard requested that two of the foremen be recalled for questions because of conflicting statements made about whether or not there were metal roof straps that intersected the mine's seals.

Seals are used to isolate dangerous gases in abandoned sections of a mine. Oppegard said he believes the explosion was ignited by a torch that was being used to cut the roof straps at the seal where methane gas was leaking, reported the *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

"The company is required once a week to do an examination of the seals," Oppegard told the *Harlan Daily Enterprise*, "and you have to check the methane level at those seals. We wanted to ask two of these foremen about falsifications of records regarding those methane checks at the seals."

Johnson and Oppegard were added to the federal investigative panel when several of the miners who had been called as witnesses designated them as their representatives. State officials denied a request by the families of the dead miners that Johnson and Oppegard represent them at the state hearings. The two said they have renewed the families' request.

"They don't tell us anything," said Rosa Brock. "It's like they have something to hide. All we want is answers so that we can have some kind of closure."

"How can they find the truth if they can't subpoena people to testify," said Dan Middleton, Roy's father, referring to the refusal of the foreman to appear at the federal hearing.

"The companies got rid of the union and now they can do whatever they want to," said Ray Harris, a retired union miner. "And the miners are paying for it with their lives." None of the coal mines in Harlan County are unionized today.

Judith Corbin, a store clerk, said she fears for her husband's life each day he goes to work. "I don't want him to go but what choice do we have?" she asked. "The government's not doing anything. They are still talking about the men killed at Sago. But what are they doing?"

"All the mines around here are unsafe," said a miner who worked in Darby Mine No. 1 and asked that his name not be used for fear of reprisal by the company. He said management at this mine is notorious for turning a blind eye to safety in



Relatives of Kentucky miners killed May 20 in an explosion at Darby Mine No. 1 hold picket outside MSHA hearings.

order to meet production quotas. This includes broken lights on machinery and on miners' helmets, he said, radios that don't work, allowing miners to smoke underground, and running power lines to machinery that are patched together and have exposed wires. He described Darby Mine No. 1 as very gassy.

This worker also confirmed statements by miners at the hearings that they had received little or no training in constructing seals. He said workers would often be instructed to use wood or paper to patch up gaps in the seals.

On May 26, less than a week after the explosion, MSHA issued a "significant" citation against Darby Mine No. 1 because at least six seals in a different section of the mine from where the May 20 explosion occurred were improperly built.

UMWA holds rally

Continued from front page

president Kenny Perdue; and Jim Bowen, retired president of the state labor federation.

"Peabody made the decision for these nonunion workers. They did not give them the option when they hired them," Roberts told the rally, according WOWK TV Channel 13 News in Charleston, West Virginia.

In 2004 the union launched a campaign called "Justice at Peabody" aimed at organizing Peabody's nonunion mines in West Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and Wyoming. With the opening of Black Stallion, the number of nonunion operations in the United States run by the coal giant, the world's largest private coal producer, now stands at 20.

"We're very encouraged by the progress of the campaign so far," Smith told the *Militant* in a June 27 phone interview. "We've seen strong support among Peabody miners and others, particularly in the Midwest."

One of the key aspects of the campaign has been the union's demand that the company agree to recognize the union if a majority of workers sign union cards. This counters long delays companies are able to impose before representation elections sponsored by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) take place, Smith said.

"This is very important. The fact is the NLRB process doesn't work. It's broken down," Smith said. "Their intent is helping companies keep unions out and they're pursuing that with a vengeance."

According to Channel 13 News, Peabody said the company is not in charge of hiring, since the facility is operated by an independent contractor.

"That may be true but it's Peabody's coal," UMWA Local 1503 president Carl Egnor told Channel 13. "It should be UMWA members mining that coal and we're gonna make every effort to make it a UMWA mine."

Paul Pederson contributed to this article.

Socialist Workers Party launches N.Y. campaign

Continued from front page

University of New York in Albany; for state attorney general, Martín Koppel, 49, a reporter for the *Militant*; and for state comptroller, Willie Cotton, 28, a sewing machine operator and member of UNITE Local 63. In addition, the SWP is running Nancy Boyasko for U.S. Congress in District 11, which includes the largely Black communities in Brooklyn's Crown Heights and Brownsville. Boyasko, 49, is a meat packer and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 342.

"In our discussions," Calero said in an interview, "we explain that the recent mass working-class movement for the legalization of all immigrants has strengthened working people as a whole. Socialist workers have joined and helped build these protests. We are using our campaign to push for legislation that would grant immediate and unconditional residency to all the undocumented.

"This movement has put working people in a better position to fight to organize trade unions and to use union power to defend labor's interests against the bosses' assaults on wages, dignity, and job conditions, especially safety. The need to support workers' struggles to unionize in order to fight effectively is at the heart of the SWP campaign platform."

DeLuca told the *Militant* that the socialist campaign calls "for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and all other occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. We say no to Washington's cold war against Cuba and demand U.S. hands off Venezuela. We oppose imperialist economic sanctions and military threats against Iran, and defend the right of Iran and other semicolonial nations to develop nuclear power and other energy sources, which are needed for basic economic and social advances."

Calero said the New York campaign is organizing a major effort July 11–23 to collect 30,000 signatures—twice the state requirement—to win ballot status for the Socialist Workers ticket. "We're appealing to workers, students, farmers, and others who want to hear a working-class voice in the elections to volunteer to help in this petitioning drive," he said. "We'll be collecting signatures in working-class communities throughout New York City and across the state. Volunteers will also be signing up co-workers, classmates, neighbors, friends, and many others."

The socialist campaigners are reaching out to workers on picket lines, to demonstrators for the legalization of immigrants, and to protesters against police brutality, Calero said. They are helping build local events in defense of the Cuban Revolution and for the release of Puerto Rican political prisoners. And they will join with hundreds of others at the July 21–23 National Organization for Women conference in Albany, New York, to discuss the fight for women's equality, including a woman's right to choose abortion.

Over the coming months, DeLuca noted, Young Socialists and other campaigners will also continue to take part in a socialist summer school, studying some of the basics of Marxism. Special classes and forums will take up aspects of the socialist platform and respond to developments in the class struggle.

Those interested in volunteering for the New York Socialist Workers petitioning effort can contact the campaign at (212) 736-2540 or visit the Manhattan campaign headquarters at 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor.



On June 6, socialist campaigners in New Jersey filed more than double the signatures required to put the SWP ticket on the ballot there. The candidates are Angela Lariscy, 41, a sewing-machine operator, for U.S. Senate; and Brian Williams, 54, a reporter for the *Militant*, for U.S. Congress in the 13th District. They have been officially certified for ballot status. Socialist Workers Party candidates are also running in Houston, Miami, and Seattle, with more to be announced (see list below).

Nancy Rosenstock in Newark, New Jersey, contributed to this article.

Initial list of Socialist Workers Party candidates in 2006

Texas	José Aravena, Governor Amanda Ulman, U.S. Senate Anthony Dutrow, U.S. Congr. 18th CD
Florida	Omari Musa, Governor Bernie Senter, U.S. Senate Margaret Trowe, U.S. Congr. 18th CD Eric Simpson, U.S. Congr., 17th CD Ruth Robinett, Fl. State Rep. D. 109
New Jersey	Angela Lariscy, U.S. Senate Brian Williams, U.S. Congr. 13th CD
New York	Róger Calero, U.S. Senate Maura DeLuca, Governor Ben O'Shaughnessy, Lt. Governor Martín Koppel, Attorney General Willie Cotton, State Comptroller Nancy Boyasko, U.S. Congr. 11th CD
Washington	David Rosenfeld, U.S. Senate Connie Allen, U.S. Congr. 7th CD

ON THE PICKET LINE

Miner in north Sweden killed in roof fall

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Miner Teemu Saarensilta, 27, died in a roof fall May 2 in the Kirunavaara iron ore mine in Kiruna, north Sweden. He was reportedly working 907 meters (more than half a mile) underground preparing a blast while standing on the elevated basket of a charge truck. Suddenly about a cubic meter of rock fell on the truck's elevated arm, which then sprung up with such force that Saarensilta was killed from hitting his head on the roof of the basket.

"The mine needs to be inspected more often," a miner who works with ore lift maintenance at the mine told the *Militant*. "The workers where Teemu worked had been telling their bosses repeatedly about rock falls, but nothing happened. Now there is a safety investigation going on."

Two days later two workers were taken to the hospital after a blast threw them against the safety rails of a truck platform. The mine is run by state-owned LKAB, which employs some 3,500 workers in several mines, processing plants, and ore docks in north Sweden and Norway.

—Björn Tirsén

Cops harass garment worker

BY JOSUE EDUARDO REVOLORIO, JR.

LOS ANGELES—The *Militant* recently ran an article on the increase in raids by immigration police. I want to tell what happened to me. I was on my way to work June 3 at 5:00 a.m. on the Blue Line and this guy stopped me and asked for my I.D. I wasn't the only one being stopped at the Metro station.

"Do you have papers?" When I said I was born here he said, "Yeah, right." I left my wallet at home, so this guy wearing a green uniform with a hat—a cowboy hat—took me to El Monte police station. I was held for five hours and then released when my story was confirmed. "Sorry," he said.

Transit workers in Toronto conduct one-day strike

TORONTO—Some 8,500 members of Amalgamated Transit Workers Union (ATU) Local 113 conducted a one-day strike here May 29 in the face of Mayor David Miller's charge that the walkout was "illegal from the start." The unionists set up picket lines on the day the Toronto Transit Commission reassigned 53 of 87 janitors and 53 of 91 subway track workers to night shift in violation of their seniority rights. The ATU has also been negotiating with the Toronto Transit Commission to resolve issues around driver safety and compensation for time lost due to injuries on the job, payment of health premiums, and job evaluations. Despite a "cease and desist" order from the Ontario Labor Relations Board, the transit workers maintained their picket lines throughout the day.

—Beverly Bernardo

Chicago: UFCW rally backs organizing Smithfield Packing plant in North Carolina



Militant/Dennis Richter

CHICAGO—Some 150 workers rallied in Chicago June 20 to back the drive by the United Food and Commercial Workers union to organize the Smithfield Packing plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina. The factory is the world's largest pork processing plant, slaughtering about 32,000 hogs a day and employing about 5,500 workers. At the podium is Quincy Harvey, a kill-floor worker at Smithfield, who was fired in 2005 after being injured on the job and out on medical leave. Similar support rallies were organized June 19–22 in Atlanta; Boston; New York; Washington; Richmond, Virginia; and Raleigh, North Carolina.

—DENNIS RICHTER

Northwest Airlines flight attendants reject wage cuts

The Professional Flight Attendants Association (PFAA) on June 6 voted by an 80 percent margin to reject a wage concessions package demanded by Northwest Airlines. The proposal, according PFAA, would have reduced attendants' pay by 40 percent with a 21 percent hourly wage cut and higher employee medical care costs. Three days later Northwest baggage handlers and ramp workers approved by 62 percent a concessions package reducing their wages by 11.5 percent and a layoff of some 700 workers. The five-year contract allows Northwest to outsource ground operations at a number of airports, as well as food catering, and to utilize more part-time workers.

—Brian Williams

Canada: Natives fighting for land push back rightist attacks

BY JOE YOUNG AND JOHN STEELE

CALEDONIA, Ontario—Since February 28, members of the Six Nations Confederacy have been occupying a housing construction site here on land that they consider theirs. Despite attacks by Ontario's provincial government and rightist forces, the Natives have stood their ground. Six Nations includes Natives belonging to the Mohawk, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Oneida, Onondaga, and Seneca nations in Ontario. On June 23, Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty for the first time called for ending the occupation. It "is just not helpful, and it really constitutes the remaining potential for danger," he said.

On June 16 the Ontario government signed a framework deal to buy the land for Can$12.3 million (US$11 million) from Henco Industries Ltd. The government intends to hold the land in trust while negotiations to end the occupation continue. On the same day, more than 1,000 people attended an all day solidarity concert in support of the Six Nations occupation site, now referred to as "Kanenhstaton—the protected place."

On May 22, in a goodwill gesture, Six Nations lifted the barricade they had erected across Highway 6 in Caledonia. In response, a group of rightists, who had erected their own barricade, began blocking Natives from entering the town.

Physical attacks by the right-wingers were met firmly by Native defenders, who then threw up a new barricade on the highway, using part of a massive hydro tower, and dug a trench in the thoroughfare with a backhoe. About 200 provincial police were called to the scene. At the same time electricity to the town was cut off, reportedly as a result of fire damage to a hydroelectric station. The following day, the Native occupiers once again lifted their barricade and Highway 6 is now open.

Anti-Native forces carried out another provocation June 8 following incidents that resulted in arrest warrants for six Native people. On June 13, in another goodwill gesture, the Six Nations removed a number of other barricades.

The Natives first erected the barricade on the highway April 20, in response to a failed pre-dawn attack by the Ontario Police to enforce a court injunction ordering an end to the occupation.

The construction site is part of a large parcel of land that was granted to the Six Nations Confederacy by the British rulers in 1784. The Six Nations Confederacy chiefs have been demanding a moratorium on construction at the site; the dropping of charges against those arrested April 20; and negotiations with the federal government to settle their historic land claims. The Six Nations reserve now occupies only 5 percent of the original 950,000-acre grant.



Militant/John Steele

Six Nations spokesperson Jacqueline House speaking at June 2 Militant Labor Forum in Toronto, Ontario.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

July 10, 1981

NEW YORK—A $37 million civil suit has been filed on behalf of those murdered and injured by Ku Klux Klan and Nazi gunmen in Greensboro, North Carolina, on November 3, 1979.

Jim Waller, Sandra Smith, Bill Sampson, Cesar Cauce and Michael Nathan—all members of the Communist Workers Party—were shot to death while they participated in an antiracist rally. Nine other participants were seriously wounded.

Despite the fact that the attack was filmed by television crews, the six Klan and Nazi members charged with the murders were later acquitted by a jury.

Edward Dawson, a police agent and former FBI informer who helped lead the Klan attack, was never called to testify at the trial. Neither was Bernard Butkovich, a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent who urged the Nazis to bring guns.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

July 23, 1956

JULY 19—The "resignation" of Matyas Rakosi, the "Stalin" of Hungary, from his post as First Secretary of the Hungarian Workers Party was announced today. As in the case of Stalin in the Soviet Union, Rakosi's repudiation by fellow bureaucrats comes as a result of the tremendous pressure of the workers on the regime.

There have been a number of reports during the past several weeks showing mounting opposition to the regime in Hungary. At a meeting on June 29 of 2,000 leading members of the Stalinist party, more than a dozen speakers charged the party had degenerated.

A few nights later an even stormier and larger meeting took place in Budapest called by the Petofi Youth League. There, Tiber Deri, well-known Hungarian writer, declared "It is high time to end this present regime of gendarmes and bureaucrats." A few days later Deri was expelled from the party.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

July 11, 1931

The day draws near when eight innocent Negro boys will be taken one by one to the electric chair to have their lives burned out by the fatal current. The sadistic bourgeoisie of the South, thirsting for blood, is determined to add the Scottsboro victims wholesale to the list of those who have fallen to the greater glory of Lynch law and capitalist justice.

The day of the execution which was set for July 10 has been postponed pending an appeal to a higher court by the defense. But this is only the most temporary and deceptive of delays. It was in this manner that the murderers of Massachusetts kept Sacco and Vanzetti in nerve-wracking suspense, while the movement for them was partly deluded and taken off its guard. Only the revolutionists pointed out then as they are pointing out today: What will save these victims from the savages who plan their death is an iron-willed mass movement of the workers.

Socialist Workers Party 44th convention m
‘irreversible strengthening of working-class
Scope and speed of mass working-class actions for immigrant rights caught U.S

BY PAUL PEDERSON AND SAM MANUEL

OBERLIN, Ohio—The massive proletarian actions for the legalization of immigrants in the last three months "represent an irreversible strengthening of the working-class movement," Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, told delegates and guests June 17 in his summary at the close of the party's 44th Constitutional Convention.

The speed and power of these protests caught the U.S. rulers by surprise. It was the most important of a number of defining moments in a year in which developments in the working class changed broader politics, Barnes said.

The social disaster in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina was among them. In face of the utter indifference by the wealthy rulers and their government, it was the initiatives and organization of working people in New Orleans that became decisive in preventing more deaths from occurring.

Then with the New Year, the wave of deaths in the coal mines began posing sharply the life-and-death question that unionization is for the working class.

The convention was stamped by the involvement of members of the SWP and the Young Socialists, together with their co-workers, in these working-class actions and other mass work. In the process, socialists made advances in discipline and programmatic clarity needed to build a revolutionary workers party.

Over the past year socialist workers took steps that strengthened their political work in factories, mines, and mills where the bosses' offensive on wages and conditions, and workers' resistance to it, has been the sharpest. They transformed the *Militant* even more into a paper seen by a growing number of militants as the voice of the working-class vanguard. And they made progress in winning young people to the communist movement and training them politically.



Militant/Dave Wulp

SWP national secretary Jack Barnes (at podium) welcomes delegates and guests to party's convention at June 15 opening of event, held at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. Others on stage, from left: session chairperson Norton Sandler (seated); and members of the welcoming and recruitment committee that delegates elected: Manuel Sánchez, Martín Koppel, Bob Appleton, Carlos Sánchez, Ellie García, Marshall Lambie, Ben O'Shaughnessy, Chauncey Robinson, Argiris Malapanis, and Gabriela Moreano.

The three-day event drew 425 people—about 30 more than last year's convention. Nearly 40 were attending their first national SWP convention or conference—up from 25 last year.

Trade union work

In a report titled "Defeating the Bosses' Counterassault at C.W. Mining," Alyson Kennedy, who was a leader of the union-organizing fight at the Co-Op coal mine near Huntington, Utah, summarized the accomplishments of coal miners in a three-year battle to organize a local of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) at the mine and then against a retaliatory lawsuit filed by the company (see coverage in last three issues).

Jacob Perasso, organizer of the party's Trade Union Committee, presented a report to the convention on the socialists' work in the labor movement. Perasso noted the close relationship between the successful efforts to expand the readership of the *Militant* among workers and the strengthening of the party's trade union work. He pointed out that 432 people signed up for subscriptions to the *Militant* in the spring circulation campaign in the region of Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska—many of them packinghouse workers.

"The party has a qualitatively different relationship to the union and this region of meat packers because of this subscription base," Perasso said. "It's not uncommon for us to go with the *Militant* to, say, Worthington, Minnesota, or Storm Lake, Iowa, and find out from workers about a job action that has taken place in one of the large slaughterhouses there."

The Socialist Workers Party will continue to concentrate its trade union work "in the industries where the employers' offensive is the sharpest," Perasso said, explaining why the party organizes units of its members—industrial union fractions—to carry out trade union work in coal mines, meatpacking plants, and garment and textile factories.

Today, he noted, the big majority of socialists in these industries are working together in fractions of two or more members in a given workplace. A year ago, most were working alone in different plants and mines.

The party's fractions in the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and UNITE unions held meetings here on June 14, the day before the convention began, where socialists drew a balance sheet of their work and elected steering committees to guide the implementation of their decisions.

'Workers took ownership of struggle'

Perasso pointed to a statement made by Bernie Hesse, the legislative director of UFCW Local 789 at a May 27 public meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, to celebrate the Co-Op miners' victory against the bosses' retaliatory suit. Hesse said that in the battle at Co-Op and an earlier one at Dakota Premium Foods, a beef slaughterhouse in St. Paul where workers led a successful union-organizing campaign, the struggles were defined by the fact that from the beginning "the workers took ownership of their struggle."

Huge working-class actions affect recruitment

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

OBERLIN, Ohio—Among the nearly 40 workers, students, and others who attended a Socialist Workers Party convention for the first time here June 15–17, a quarter joined the party or the Young Socialists. A number said the mass working-class actions for immigrant rights and the party's response to them had an impact on making this decision.

Jabari Ashe, 23, is an auto technician at a car dealership in the San Francisco Bay Area. He said he joined the Young Socialists here because "I want to learn how to be a better organizer and Marxist and join others who think the way I do."

Ashe said he first met the SWP and Young Socialists at a Martin Luther King Day event in Houston in 2004. More recently he ran into socialists again at the May 1 immigrant rights march in San Francisco. Ashe said he went to the rally with some trepidation on how the largely foreign-born workers would treat an African-American. But he was elated by the enthusiasm with which the protesters embraced him. After the action, some of his co-workers asked why he attended the march since he is Black, he said, giving him a chance to explain why the fight to legalize all immigrants is in the interests of all working people. Ashe said he wants to get the *Militant* around more at work and sell subscriptions to his fellow members of the International Association of Machinists.

David Arguello, a 29-year-old worker at a guitar factory in San Diego, also joined the YS here. "I was in the YS eight years ago when I was a college student at the University of California in Santa Cruz," he said. "Then I went to Mexico and dropped out of activity. I decided to rejoin because of the impact of the immigrant rights protests. It's not enough to go to marches, I had to be part of a movement. Now I will attend classes in Los Angeles as part of a summer school on Marxism and collaborate with the party and Young Socialists there."

"I had been thinking of joining the Socialist Workers Party for a while," said Christian Castro, a 27-year-old technician and YS member in Chicago who joined the SWP here. "This was a good opportunity. I was attracted to the Cuban Revolution and didn't see any other party organizing to emulate its example in the U.S. That was the starting point for me. Attending Militant Labor Forums helped." Along with other YS and party members from around the country, Castro joined the May 20 march in Washington demanding "Hands Off Venezuela and Cuba."

Sam Cole, attending his first convention, also joined the party. "I had been looking for a socialist organization for a while when I found the SWP," he said. A 31-year-old nursing student at Lawson State Community College in Birmingham, Alabama, Cole said he had read the *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels and other socialist literature since high school. In March he began looking for communist organizations. "Once I went to the Militant Labor Forum, it all came together," he said.

Gabriela Moreano, 26, organizer of the Young Socialists in St. Paul, Minnesota, joined the party too. "I first met the SWP at a Cinco de Mayo event in St. Paul and subscribed to the *Militant*," she said. "I came to the party convention last year and joined the YS last fall after the World Youth Festival in Venezuela."

Others did not become members of the party but strengthened their commitment to help build the communist movement.

Howard Allen, a retired seaman and member of the Seafarers International Union, was among them. Allen found out about the party last September when *Militant* supporters came to New Orleans to learn the truth about how working people responded to the social catastrophe they faced following Hurricane Katrina. He bought a subscription to the socialist newsweekly at the time and later helped distribute the paper among neighbors.

"I had a great time," Allen said of the convention. Its deliberations "answered a lot of my questions about socialism, and straightened out all the lies they tell in the press." He said he especially enjoyed a class he attended on "The Jewish Question: The Danger for the Workers Movement of the 'Israel Lobby' Conspiracy Theory." Allen said he plans to go to New York in July to help campaign for the SWP ticket (see front-page article).

He'll be campaigning along with Matilda Hernández-Miyares, a 17-year-old high school student in New York, who was attending her first convention and joined the Young Socialists here. "I had thought socialism was a good idea but it couldn't work," she said. "So when I found out more about the Cuban Revolution, especially through reading *Our History Is Still Being Written* by three Chinese-Cuban generals, it changed my mind. It's the biggest example of where things have changed."

Michael Italie contributed to this article.

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movement’
S. rulers by surprise





Militant/Arthur Hughes (left); Eddie Beck (right)

Above: Delegates approve resolutions before the convention at its closing on June 17. Right: Julian Santana, a member of the SWP and Young Socialists in St. Paul, Minnesota, presents class on “Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future.”

That’s a useful political observation, Perasso said. In both of these fights workers launched the organizing battle first and then went to local union officials for help. “Taking ownership of their struggle” is what gave these organizing fights their strength and made them stand out from many other strikes or unionization efforts in recent years. That’s why communists have their eyes on the ranks of the working class, organized or unorganized.

In his political report and summary to the convention, Jack Barnes said that there are no signs of a coming stabilization of capitalist politics, which is marked both by the employers’ offensive at home to shore up declining profits and by imperialist wars like those in Iraq and Afghanistan. This capitalist world disorder will continue to underlie fights like the two Hesse singled out, he said.

The course workers at Dakota and Co-Op followed stands in sharp contrast to that of the top labor officialdom, who in face of the bosses’ offensive have focused on collaboration with the employers, not on organizing workers to resist these attacks, said Barnes. He pointed to the capitulation to demands by the auto barons for wage and benefit cuts by the leadership of the United Auto Workers reflected at the UAW convention (see article on page 3) and recent statements by UNITE president Bruce Raynor that the union is not targeting manufacturing for organizing, where jobs are supposedly “outsourced” abroad, but service workers. “Our goal is to move service-sector workers into the middle class,” Raynor said.

This weakening of the labor movement, while motion toward rank-and-file action continues, is one of labor’s central contradictions today, Barnes said, and will only be resolved through a course like that Hesse put his finger on.

The huge protests demanding legalization of all immigrants strengthen mightily the prospects for the workers movement to move in that direction, Barnes said. These were working-class political actions to make demands on the government, actions in which all who took part, not just immigrants, were welcome.

A number of delegates pointed to large numbers of workers being involved in meetings to organize the protests for immigrant rights. Frank Forrestal, a meat packer and delegate from Des Moines, Iowa, said some 200 people, largely workers, took part in such a coalition meeting in that Midwestern city leading up to an April 9 action. More than 50 workers participated in another such meeting prior to the May Day events.

Character of ‘Militant’ changes

The character of the *Militant* has changed more in the past 12 months than in any 12 months of its history, Barnes said in his opening remarks. The socialist weekly has become “more and more the voice of militant workers.”

Barnes, as well as a number of delegates who spoke during the discussion, pointed to the special issue the *Militant* published in February with the banner headline “Unionize the mines! Build the UMWA! No miner has to die.”

The campaign to sell that issue greatly increased the paper’s base of subscribers in the West Virginia and Kentucky coalfields, said Ryan Scott, a coal miner and a delegate from Pittsburgh. More workers say they need the *Militant* because they identify it with a certain course of action for labor, he said.

“When you begin to concentrate readers in an industry, a region, a plant, you’re also putting enormous responsibility in your hands,” Barnes said. “It is a pledge to those workers that you will cover their struggles in the paper.”

Last year the party had projected a modest fall subscription campaign. By the midpoint of that effort, the response to the paper among working people was such that the subscription goal was doubled and more than 3,000 new readers signed up for introductory subscriptions. A similar demand for the paper was seen in the winter subscription renewal effort and spring circulation campaign.

Political work in the labor movement is an integral part of the irreplaceable work of building the communist movement, Barnes said. He noted the significance of the modest increase in recruitment of workers to the party in the past year and the development of leadership among the youngest recruits to the movement.

At the opening of the convention, Barnes introduced the members of the Welcome and Recruitment Committee. In addition to working with those attending their first convention, the committee was charged with “going out and winning as many Young Socialists and candidates for membership in the party as possible,” he said. By the end of the convention, as participants were laying out plans to launch socialist election campaign efforts and teams to introduce the *Militant* to workers, 10 people had joined the Young Socialists or the Socialist Workers Party (see article on page 6).

Leverage of propaganda work

“I know of no other book we have published that has gotten such a broad response, and has led us to so many new forces as has this book,” said Mary-Alice Waters about *Our History Is Still Being Written*: *The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, published by Pathfinder Press this year. Waters, a member of the party’s National Committee, gave a report titled “Africa, Cuba, China, the U.S.: The Leverage of Communist Propaganda Work.”

She said a public launching of the book will be held at the Chinese Historical Society in San Francisco September 9. Speakers at it will include Waters and Ling Chi-Wang, a prominent professor of

Continued on page 8

Message to Communist Party of Cuba

Below is a message to Dagoberto Rodríguez Barrera, chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., sent June 21 by SWP national secretary Jack Barnes on behalf of the delegates to the party’s convention. Rodríguez sent greetings to the convention on behalf of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Dear Compañero Rodríguez,

The 425 participants at the Socialist Workers Party’s 44th Constitutional Convention—delegates, party members, Young Socialists, as well as supporters, contacts, and friends from across North America, Europe, and the Pacific—received with enthusiasm your warm greetings. We would have much preferred to welcome you in person and share with you our deliberations, but the message enabled your presence to be felt despite the unceasing efforts of the U.S. government to prevent the people of Cuba from extending their solidarity to those who are part of the popular struggles today unfolding across the United States.

The deliberations of the convention’s delegates were marked above all by involvement of party members together with our co-workers in the massive proletarian movement for the legalization of immigrant workers that in the last three months has strengthened mightily the workers movement as well as changed broader politics in the United States. The speed and power of these actions caught the U.S. rulers by surprise. By downing tools and taking to the streets across the country in numbers never before seen in the United States, millions of workers engaged in what was in fact a multicity political general strike for the first time in our history.

This was the context in which the convention discussion and decisions helped clarify and strengthen the Socialist Workers Party’s course as we respond to the deepening crisis of the world imperialist order. Among the questions to which the delegates gave special attention were not only Washington’s expanding war in Iraq and Afghanistan and the fight for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from those countries, but the intensifying imperialist pressures and threats directed at Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The delegates also expressed their determination to continue to do everything possible to broaden the campaign for freedom of our five Cuban brothers, framed, given draconian sentences, and railroaded to prison for their courage and commitment to defend the people of Cuba from the actions of Cuban counterrevolutionary forces that Washington’s bipartisan government allow to operate with impunity within the united States.

The convention marked a step forward for us in winning new workers and youth to our ranks, widely expanding the readership of the *Militant/El Militante*, and advancing the programmatic clarity and discipline needed to effectively join the class battles ahead of us at home and abroad. Along that course, we unconditionally extend our hand to socialist Cuba in internationalist solidarity.

Fraternally,
Jack Barnes

Socialist Workers Party National Committee
Elected at 44th Constitutional Convention

Regular

Jack Barnes	James Harris	Sam Manuel	Jacob Perasso
Róger Calero	Alyson Kennedy	Doug Nelson	Norton Sandler
Steve Clark	Martín Koppel	Olympia Newton	Brian Taylor
Bill Estrada	Argiris Malapanis	Paul Pederson	Mary-Alice Waters

Alternate

1. Paul Mailhot	4. Diana Newberry	7. Willie Cotton
2. Ved Dookhun	5. Karl Butts	8. Becca Williamson
3. Arrin Hawkins	6. Ellie García	9. Carlos Sánchez

Socialist Workers Party holds 44th convention

Continued from page 7

Asian-American studies at the University of California in Berkeley.

Waters stressed the importance of this type of mass work for building a proletarian party. The response to the new book has provided opportunities to broaden knowledge about the Cuban Revolution among Asian-Americans and others, and to extend the reach and attraction to the communist movement in such circles, opening doors previously closed to it.

Waters also reviewed three other experiences that register the increasingly effective use of books and other revolutionary literature in building the communist movement.

Young Socialists participated along with 15,000 other youth from 144 countries in the World Festival of Youth and Students last August in Caracas, Venezuela. The political activity and conduct of the Young Socialists leading up to and at that gathering, which drew many different political forces, was a "master class" in mass work, Waters said. A majority of the Young Socialists today were not members of the YS then, and many were recruited through this campaign.

Another such experience was registered last October, when an international team of volunteers staffed Pathfinder's booth and participated in the first book fair ever held in Equatorial Guinea. The former Spanish-ruled colony in Central Africa, on the Gulf of Guinea, is in U.S. imperialism's sights today largely because of its oil reserves, Waters said.

As a result of cumulative work over decades and the changes in politics worldwide, a noticeable change was registered in the response to titles promoted by Pathfinder at the last book fair in Havana, Waters said. "This was especially registered in the response to the presentation around issues 6 and 7 of *Nueva Internacional*," Waters said, referring to the Spanish version of the most recently published editions of that magazine of Marxist politics and theory.

Waters pointed to the place of the work of some 200 party supporters in formatting, printing, and helping to promote the books published by the communist movement and to a reorientation of that effort. Steps have been taken, Waters reported, to train all who volunteer and expand the number of supporters active in the work of the Printing Project, as it is called.

Convention delegates, elected by party branches in 16 cities, voted to approve the reports by Barnes, Perasso, and Waters along with two documents that had been discussed by party members before the convention, "The World Crisis of Imperialism: The Contradictory Dynamics of the Labor Vanguard" and "Consolidating Our Political Progress and Recruiting to the Communist Movement."

Convention delegates elected a new National Committee, the body charged with carrying out convention decisions and leading the work of the party between conventions (see page 7).

Educational conference

Alongside the convention sessions, an educational conference was organized for all participants. Eight classes were offered on themes often taken up by delegates and in the documents before them. The classes included, "The Struggle for a Proletarian Party and the Organizational Character of the SWP," by Olympia Newton; "The Case of Leon Trotsky: The Answer to the 1936–37 Moscow Frame-up Trials and the Fight to Continue Lenin's Communist Course Against Stalin's Counterrevolution," by Bernie Senter and Dave Prince; and "The Black Struggle and the March to the Dictatorship of the Proletariat in the Americas," by Steve Clark, James Harris, and Gabriela Moreano.

Other classes were presented on "The Jewish Question: The Danger for the Workers Movement of the 'Israel Lobby' Conspiracy Theory," by Sam Manuel; "Communism and the Internationalization of the Working Class, from Marx, Engels, and Lenin to Today," by Martín Koppel and Ross Hogan; "Women's Liberation and the Line of March of the Working Class to Power," by Betsy Farley and Chauncey Robinson; "Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future," by Paul Mailhot and Julian Santana; and "Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy," by Sara Donaldson and Ben O'Shaughnessy.

Party supporters participating in the Printing Project held workshops the day after the conference concluded. A meeting of Young Socialists and other youth was also held the same day.

Closing rally

The international gathering concluded with an evening rally on June 17. A panel of speakers outlined plans to build on the successes registered at the gathering.

"Campaigners for the SWP ticket in New York State are going out of this convention to offer a working-class alternative to the Democrats, Republicans, and other capitalist parties," Róger Calero, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, told the enthusiastic audience (see front-page article).

Ross Hogan, a member of the Young Socialists in New York, described the successful launching of the Socialist Summer School in that city as well as in Atlanta, Los Angeles, and St. Paul, Minnesota. He noted the advances the Young Socialists have made in recruiting to the organization and consolidating a cadre.

Greetings were read to the convention from Dagoberto Rodríguez, chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., who sent the message on behalf of the Communist Party of Cuba; the Pro-Independence University Students Federation (FUPI) in Puerto Rico; and the Workers Party of Korea.

Panelists presented plans for a summer subscription renewal effort to increase the *Militant*'s long-term readership, strengthening the work of the Printing Project, and deepening the party's trade union work. Delegates and guests signed up to join a team to introduce the *Militant* to miners and others in Harlan County, Kentucky, where the socialist paper has received a good response because of its truthful reporting on the killing of five coal miners on the job in May and the response by working people to the disaster. A team of four volunteers sold 16 subscriptions and 150 copies of the *Militant* in Harlan Country June 22–24, bringing the total there to 31 subscriptions and 500 copies over the last month.

Dave Prince, organizer of the party's capital fund committee, announced that $163,500 was raised in capital contributions from nearly 30 contributors during the three-day gathering. Those present responded to an appeal to help build the SWP, contributing nearly $29,000.

Conferences organized for legalization of immigrants

Continued from front page

with the earlier House bill, and the creation of a statewide steering committee between the coalitions that organized the May Day mobilizations," Nativo López, president of the Mexican American Political Association, said in an interview. "This network will move the agenda demanding full and immediate legalization for all immigrants."

The Senate bill includes numerous anti–working-class provisions, such as building hundreds of miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border, more than doubling the Border Patrol cops, and making it easier for *la migra* to deport immigrants without any review. It would also allow some undocumented workers currently in the United States to gain legal status, after paying heavy fines and meeting other restrictions.

A bill passed by the House of Representatives last December would make it a felony to be in the United States without proper documents and does not allow legalization for any of the undocumented. House leaders announced June 20 they would hold public hearings on the Senate bill in July and August, making it unlikely that Congress will reach agreement on any immigration law soon. The first of these hearings will take place in San Diego July 5. The same day, an Immigrant Rights Tribunal will be held, López reported, one of the activities agreed to at the June 17 conference. The Tribunal will serve as a speakout for those who have lost relatives crossing the desert along the U.S.-Mexico border, had their families separated, and faced deportation. Conference participants also decided to organize teach-ins for July 15, to educate the public about the nature of the Senate bill and win support for legalization.

Meanwhile, according to information posted on *www.immigrantsolidarity.org*, the National Immigrant Solidarity Network has called a "National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference" July 28–30 at American University in Washington, D.C., to oppose the Senate and House bills and support amnesty for undocumented immigrants and legalization. For more information call 1-800-598-6379.

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EDITORIAL

U.S. troops out of Iraq now!

Not one penny for the ongoing wars and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan! U.S. and all other "coalition" troops out of these countries now!

This is what working people need to demand as bipartisan support for the "war on terror," including the U.S.-led war in Iraq, has firmed up. This is doubly important in face of demagogy by liberal politicians and "reporting" in much of the media that falsely presented last week's discussion in the U.S. Senate as a largely partisan split on withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq.

Never mind the *unanimous* vote in the Senate for all the funds the White House requested to continue the military occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Never mind that 70 percent of Democrats in the Senate joined their Republican colleagues to vote down an amendment that asked for "redeployment" a year from now of some troops not needed for "standing up Iraqi security forces" and for "counterterrorism operations and protecting United States facilities and personnel."

Never mind that the statements backing this proposal by its sponsor, Sen. John Kerry, aided Washington's efforts to further demonize Iran and prepare the ground for a possible military assault on that semicolonial nation for the crime of trying to develop nuclear power.

Never mind that the second amendment that failed on troop redeployment, with a minority of Democrats and most Republicans voting it down, merely called for expediting, with no timetable, the transition of U.S. forces in Iraq to a "limited presence."

This is not a debate. It's a charade. It is aimed at fooling working people to get behind one or another of the capitalist ruling parties for the best way to "defend America." But the United States is divided into classes, with conflicting and irreconcilable interests. It's in the interest of the wealthy families that rule America to back the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the broader "war on terror," to beat back their competitors, shift the relationship of forces in those areas more to the favor of the imperialistic system of class exploitation and national oppression, and get more control of resources like oil.

These are the same capitalist families responsible for maiming and killing coal miners and other workers on the job to increase their profits. These are the same employers cutting wages and workers' pensions to fatten their wallets. Their so-called war on terrorism at home and abroad ultimately targets workers and exploited farmers, their organizations, and the very rights working people need to defend their livelihoods against the bosses' antilabor attacks. The recent "antiterrorist" raid in Miami, based on the "evidence" cooked up by one FBI snitch, and a similar one in London in which cops shot a postal worker, whom they arrested and then released without charges, prove the point.

That's why it's in the interest of working people to oppose the "war on terror," uncompromisingly, and to demand immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and all other occupation troops from the Middle East and Central Asia.

London: 1,000s protest 'antiterror' raid

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June 2 and arrested Mohammed Abdul Kahar and his brother Abul Koyair. Kahar, a postal worker, was shot in the shoulder by the cops. The men were held for a week at a high security prison under the Terrorism Act 2000, and then released without charges.

After getting out of prison, Kahar told the media that after he was shot he said to the police, "'Please, please, I cannot move.' He just kicked me in my face, and he kept on saying: 'Shut the f--k up. Stay here.'"

Kahar said he was dragged from the house onto the street where eventually a cop applied pressure to the wound. During the raid a 100-metre (328 feet) cordon was drawn around the house and the skies above were decreed a no-fly zone, as 50 officers broke down the door and burst inside. The cops alleged the building was used to hide chemical weapons. None were found. The brothers' lawyer said the cops dug up plants in the garden and drilled holes in the shower.

Speaking to demonstrators June 18, Koyair, a supermarket worker said, "[We] don't want this to happen to other people…Muslim [or] non-Muslim."

Relatives of Jean Charles de Menezes, who was shot dead by cops at the Stockwell underground station in July 2005 on the false grounds that he was a suspected "terrorist," attended the rally. After a police review in March of that killing, de Menezes's cousin, Alex Pereira, told the press: "I won't accept Blair's apology because he's killing people—he apologized but at the same time they will still carry on with their shoot-to-kill policy."

Prime Minister Anthony Blair said he backed the Forest Gate operation "101 percent," indicating that such raids will continue. London mayor Kenneth Livingstone also backed the raid.

"Is he 101 percent behind the bullet which went into my chest?" asked Kahar in response. Both brothers said they'll sue the police.

UAW convention

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Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. About one-third of U.S. auto production is now in the South.

The UAW convention promoted a strong protectionist theme, with many convention delegates wearing T-shirts that said, "American jobs are worth fighting for." At the convention Gettelfinger argued that steps were needed to prevent "American" jobs from being "exported to Mexico, China, Thailand, Vietnam, India, and other low-wage nations."

UAW convention delegates approved a proposal to take $60 million out of a nearly $925 million strike fund. Robert Betts, president of Local 2151 near Grand Rapids, Michigan, told the *Free Press* that the funds would instead be used to lobby Congress for anti-import laws—including trade measures against China—and to try to organize the U.S. plants of Toyota, Honda, and other Asian-based manufacturers.

Israeli tanks, troops invade Gaza Strip

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Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert said of the attack. At the same time, he added, "We do not intend to reoccupy Gaza."

PNA president Mahmoud Abbas condemned the capturing of Shalit and called the Israeli assault "collective punishment and crimes against humanity."

Shalit was captured after the Israeli military for the past month has stepped up its campaign of targeted assassinations of Palestinians accused of carrying out armed attacks against Israelis. According to the United Nations, Israeli attacks have killed 43 Palestinians and injured more than 100 in Gaza in June. More than one-third of them have been bystanders killed as "collateral damage" during missile attacks by the Israeli Air Force.

The assault in Gaza is part of the Israeli regime's effort to secure the borders of Israel as a junior imperialist power in the region.

The Israeli government is willing to negotiate with Palestinian leaders who "act against terrorism and recognize Israel's right to exist," Olmert said June 26. If the Palestinian leadership does not comply, "the State of Israel will seek other ways to change the reality, separate ourselves from the Palestinians and shape the borders of Israel, in order for there to always be a stable and permanent Jewish majority in the State of Israel," he stated.

As the Gaza invasion was unfolding, the media said that Tel Aviv and Washington had made progress in pressuring Hamas to recognize Israel. A draft accord has reportedly been reached between the leadership of Hamas and Abbas, a leader of Fatah that ran the PNA until last year. It calls for the creation of a Palestinian state on the territories Tel Aviv occupied after 1967. Hamas has so far refused to recognize, even implicitly, Israel's claim to the rest of historic Palestine.

Miami raid

Continued from front page

blocks around a warehouse in a residential area, and arrested two of the men.

Federal cops arrested three others, construction laborers, as they worked at an apartment building in the Buena Vista East neighborhood of Miami.

The men, all between the ages of 22 and 32, used the warehouse for Bible study and martial arts training, according to family and neighbors. They are members of a religious group called Seas of David and worked for a small construction company run by the group's leader, Narseal Batiste. Two of the men are Haitian-born and four are of Haitian descent.

A four-count federal grand jury indictment charges all seven with conspiracy to provide material support to a "foreign terrorist organization, that is, al-Qaeda," and conspiracy to use explosives and to "levy war against the Government of the United States." If convicted they would face maximum prison sentences of 15–20 years on each charge.

According to the indictment, the police infiltrator provided the men with money, boots, uniforms, and a camera, and discussed with them a plot to destroy the Sears Tower in Chicago, the Miami FBI office, and other Miami federal buildings. He supposedly got them to "pledge an oath to al-Qaeda."

The arrests were preceded by several months of FBI spying, wiretaps, and secret videotaping. The FBI acknowledges the group had no weapons or explosives and no ties to al-Qaeda.

"This group was more aspirational than operational," said FBI deputy director John Pistole.

Relatives of those accused spoke out against the arrests. "I believe my husband is innocent of all the accusations against him," said Minerva Batiste, 34, about Narseal Batiste, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

"They prayed. They exercised. They were trying to get their minds right," Marlene Phanor, sister of Stanley Phanor, one of those arrested, told the *Miami Herald*. "These claims are completely false."

Betty McKinzy, 57, a county animal services worker who lives near the warehouse, told the *Militant*, "I don't think it was right. These people never bothered anybody. The FBI didn't find any guns or drugs—no nothing."

Another neighbor, a Honduran-born construction worker who asked that his name not be used, said, "I don't think they were terrorists. There were no guns or grenades. They're religious. I used to see them doing exercises when I walked my dog in the morning. There is no evidence, but the police do what they want."

Tony Jeanthenor, a leader of Veye Yo, a Haitian community organization, said, "It is very very suspicious. No proof whatsoever. And the federal government is good at creating proof when they need it. These workers decide to pray their own way. What is the problem?"

David Markus, president of the Miami chapter of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, told the *Herald*, "We used to have agents and confidential informants creating drug deals in Liberty City. Now it looks like they are creating homegrown cells."

Sarah Ruth Robinett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for the Florida House of Representatives in District 109, which includes most of Liberty City, condemned the FBI raid and arrests.

"The U.S. government, its cops, secret police and media want to convince us that they are out to protect our rights and that we should get used to the stepped-up use of government armed forces in our neighborhoods. Nothing could be further from the truth," she said.

These "antiterrorist" moves, Robinett said, are in fact "attacks on our basic rights. The real target is working people—our fighting capacity and our unions. The rights of the accused must be defended, including the presumption of innocence, private meetings with their lawyers, and complete access to all evidence against them."